

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 616 – HB 672

March 18, 2017

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Authorizes a county election commission to utilize various methods to verify a voter's change of address. Authorizes online voter registration prior to July 1, 2017. Authorizes persons aged 60 years or older to request an absentee ballot under certain circumstances. Requires applicants for an absentee ballot to provide the last four digits of their social security number instead of their full social security number.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (005271): Deletes and rewrites the bill such that the only substantive changes are: (1) authorizes online voter registration as soon as practicable, but no later than September 1, 2017, and (2) removes the change in requirements for applying for an absentee ballot.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

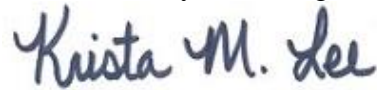
Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-106(b), a county election commission is responsible for implementing an address verification program to identify any voter who has changed their address of residence without notifying the election commission.
- The proposed amendatory language would prescribe methods which county election commissions can utilize to verify addresses of voters for the purpose of updating the address verification program.
- According to the Department of State, county election commissions are currently utilizing these methods to determine a voter's address; as a result, there will be no significant fiscal impact to local government.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-112, beginning July 1, 2017, an applicant may submit an online voter registration application through a website established by the state Coordinator of Elections.

- The proposed amendatory language would authorize submission of online voter registration applications as soon as practicable, but no later than September 1, 2017.
- The acceptance of online voter registration applications as soon as practicable, but no later than September 1, 2017, will not result in any significant increase in state expenditures.
- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-201(5), certain persons aged 65 years of age or older are authorized to vote absentee. The proposed amendatory language would extend applicability to persons aged 60 years and older.
- The proposed amendatory language will not result in any significant increase to state or local expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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